

**OSSEO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 12, 2021**

1. ROLL CALL

President Poppe called the regular meeting of the Osseo Economic Development Authority to order at 6:01 p.m., Monday, April 12, 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this meeting was held virtually.

Members present: Teresa Aho, Deanna Burke, Harold E. Johnson, Sherry Murdock, Duane Poppe, Larry Stelmach, and Alicia Vickerman.

Members absent: None.

Staff present: Executive Director Riley Grams and City Attorney Mary Tietjen.

Others present: Mary Matze and Anna Schmiel.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Stelmach, seconded by Johnson, to approve the Agenda as presented. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried 7-0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 8, 2021

A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Stelmach, to approve the minutes of March 8, 2021, as presented. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried 7-0.

4. MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR – None.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None.

6. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Executive Director Riley Grams presented the EDA Accounts Payable listing.

A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Stelmach, to approve the Accounts Payable. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried 7-0.

7. OLD BUSINESS – None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. HENNEPIN COUNTY ELEVATE BUSINESS PROGRAM – Mary Matze, Hennepin County, and Christine Levens, Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce

Grams stated to continue to help Osseo businesses pull out of the COVID-19 pandemic, staff has reached out to Hennepin County for additional local business support programs. One

program is the Hennepin County Elevate Business program. Hennepin County, in partnership with the Minneapolis Regional Chamber, announced the Elevate Business HC program, a new public/private initiative offering pro bono services to businesses located in Hennepin County. The COVID-19 pandemic and civil unrest have impacted businesses, and economic recovery is a priority. The goal of the program is to provide resources to help re-build, re-establish, and re-ignite business. He reported Mary Matze was in attendance to provide the EDA with further information on this program.

Mary Matze, Hennepin County, thanked the EDA for its time. She explained she was an Economic Development Analyst at Hennepin County. She shared information regarding the County's small business resources being offered through the Elevate Business program. She discussed the small business relief grants that were offered to small businesses through CARES Act dollars. She reported \$73 million was granted to small business owners that were struggling due to COVID. She indicated the County had no current grant opportunities, but future grant opportunities may occur. She encouraged small business owners to sign up for the County's economic development newsletter to stay apprised of this information. She discussed the CEO Next Business Institute noting this program helped established businesses sustain growth by targeting existing businesses in the community that are well-positioned for job creation and longer-term business growth, while also supporting growth to new regional and national markets. Additional business resources were discussed in further detail with the EDA. She then provided information on how Osseo businesses could receive assistance through Elevate Business HC. She reported seven businesses have already registered on the Elevate Business HC website. It was noted the County was partnering with the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce for this program.

Anna Schmiel, District 1, explained she has been working with the City of Osseo to apply for the business district initiative. She reported business owners would be receiving emails shortly about this.

Stelmach thanked Ms. Schmiel and Ms. Matze for the updates. He asked if non-profits would qualify for assistance. Ms. Schmiel reported the business district initiative applies only to locally owned businesses and does not apply to non-profits. Ms. Matze explained non-profits could receive assistance through Elevate Business HC.

Johnson thanked Ms. Schmiel for adding him and all the EDA commissioners to her mailing list.

Johnson questioned when funding would be available for the business district initiative. Ms. Schmiel stated the RFP was not out yet. She commented it was her understanding the RFP would be submitted in early May. She further discussed the work she was doing to gather information from local business owners and the needs they have.

Murdock suggested the City's gateway sign be used to promote the County newsletter to local business owners. Grams stated this could be done.

Ms. Matze thanked the City for being a great partner and for getting word out on the programs available through Hennepin County.

Poppe thanked Ms. Matze and Ms. Schmiel for their updates.

9. REPORTS OR COMMENTS: Executive Director, President, Members

Grams encouraged all residents to promote peace and to abide by the governor's curfew.

Johnson commented on March 29 the CDC director announced there was a 90 day extension to the eviction moratorium on rental payments, now through June 30.

Johnson reported FEMA announced they will give up to \$9,000 for COVID death funeral expenses.

Stelmach stated it was great to see people getting out and frequenting Osseo's local businesses.

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Murdock, to adjourn at 6:39 p.m. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Guenther
Minute Maker Secretarial